

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. – 10. (canceled)

11. (new) An apparatus for taking up a succession of imbricated packaging bags carried by a pair of carrier tapes, said apparatus comprising:

- a) two carrier tape winding spools positioned coaxially with one another; and
- b) a differential gear unit positioned between said spools, said differential gear unit adapted to be, in use, removably connectable to a shaft of a bag loader whereby two carrier tapes can be wound up on said spools with equal tension;

wherein said spools each have a recess in a surface which faces the other spool and wherein said differential gear unit is positioned in said recesses.

12. (new) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said spools and differential gear unit are positioned in a cassette housing.

13. (new) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said differential gear unit is removably connectable to said shaft without the use of tools.

14. (new) An apparatus for taking up a succession of imbricated packaging bags carried by a pair of carrier tapes, said apparatus comprising:

- a) two carrier tape winding spools positioned coaxially with one another; and
- b) a differential gear unit positioned between said spools, said differential gear unit adapted to be, in use, removably connectable to a shaft of a bag loader whereby two carrier tapes can be wound up on said spools with equal tension;

wherein each of said spools is integrally formed with a bevel gear coaxial with said spool.

15. (new) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said differential gear unit comprises a core and at least one pinion gear attached to said core and positioned to mesh with each bevel gear.

16. (new) An apparatus according to claim 15 wherein said core comprises a mating hole for mating with the shaft of a bag loader.

17. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said spools and differential gear unit are positioned in a cassette housing.

18. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said differential gear unit is removably connectable to said shaft without the use of tools.